

Appln. No. 09/831,694
Reply to Office Action of November 2, 2005

PATENT
450101-02708

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-10, which are independent, have been amended. Claims 3 and 6 have been allowed. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed and specifically at pages 56 and 57. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-10, which were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement and under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite, are hereby amended, obviating the rejection.

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III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatenable over U.S. Patent No. 6,411,400 to Mori in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,603,737 to Fukunaga, et al.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...generating means for generating a blank image in the image to be printed on the print sheet in a position of the image data not present when the print control information is generated and image data associated with the print control information is not present.”
(emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, U.S. Patent No. 6,411,400 to Mori (hereinafter, merely “Mori”) relates to transmitting print data having externally attached blank space to a printing apparatus, which can communicate through a predetermined communication medium. The position and size of the blank spaces are specified by a user.

As understood by Applicant, U.S. Patent No. 6,603,737 to Fukunaga, et al. (hereinafter, merely “Fukunaga”) relates to a data transmission system where an image providing device and a printer are directly connected to a 1394 serial bus. A command is sent from the image providing device to the printer and then response is sent from the printer to the image-providing device. Image data is sent from the image-providing device to the printer based on information provided in the response.

Applicant respectfully submits that nothing has been found in Mori or Fukunaga, taken alone or in combination that would disclose or suggest the above-identified feature of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submits that both Mori and Fukunaga fail to teach or suggest generating means for generating a blank image in the image to be printed on the print sheet in a

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position of the image data not present when the print control information is generated and image data associated with the print control information is not present, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those described above, amended independent claims 2, 4, 5, and 7-10 are also believed to be patentable.

CONCLUSION

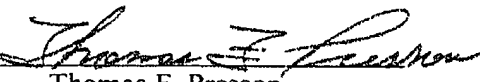
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of the statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate the portion, or portions, of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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